

HERALD OF



FREEDOM.

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BY G. W. BROWN & CO.

"TRUTH CRUSHED TO EARTH SHALL RISE AGAIN."

A Family Newspaper—Independent on All Subjects.

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HERALD OF FREEDOM
A COMPLETE
HISTORY OF KANSAS,
FROM THE
FIRST DISCOVERY BY THE FRENCH,
TO THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1857.

BY THE EDITORS.

CHAPTER XXI.
G. W. BROWN'S NARRATIVE, INCLUDING AN ACCOUNT OF HIS ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT, FROM THE COPY OF A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

CANT. U. S. CAVALRY, NEAR LEXINGTON, JULY 18, 1857.

—You inquired of me the facts in

regard to my capture at Kansas City in

May last, and wished me to write out the

leading incidents connected with the af-

fair. I will do so with great pleasure, stat-

ing the occasion which called me to that

place at that time.

A meeting of the business men of Kan-

sas was held in Lawrence on the 28th of

March last; to take into consideration the

outrages committed on persons and prop-

erty coming up the Missouri, and to de-

termine, if possible, it was considered

the only practical correction of the

evil complained of consisted in establish-

ing a line of steamers direct between Al-

ton and Leavenworth. Among others I

was commissioned to visit St. Louis, Alton,

Chicago, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh to

make all needful arrangements for setting

in operation such a line of steamers.

Leaving home on the 1st of April, I ar-

rived in St. Louis soon after, where I stop-

ped several days, and from thence visit-

ed Alton, and in company with other

members of the Committee, called upon

the leading business men of that city,

and attended a public meeting where much

enthusiasm was shown by the people in

favor of the movement.

In due time I visited Chicago, spent

several days there, held a meeting there,

also at Rockford, Ill. Having been de-

scribed by ill-health, I was not ready

to leave Chicago until Monday morning

the 28th of April, when I found myself

in the cars bound for Cincinnati.

While thus seated the news boys

furnished me the *Democratic Press* of

that morning, which brought me the

intelligence of the shooting of Jones.

I immediately changed my direction,

and late that night found myself in

Alton en route for Kansas, determined

to be near the scene of trouble and

danger, if any occurred, as I had reason to

believe there would. Indeed from state-

ments I had heard on my way down the

river in the month previous, I was con-

fident those who had invaded Kansas so

often from Missouri, were only waiting a

favorable pretext to commence outrages

anew. One gentleman, who claimed to

be a merchant from Weston, Mo., told me

on that occasion that as soon as the grass

starts to grow he would subvert their horses,

every 4—d abolitionist in the Territory

would be driven out, and claimed that

he was visiting Lexington at that time in

connection with the movement. I alluded

to this statement in my first editorial cor-

respondence to the *Herald of Freedom* af-

ter leaving home.

After remaining in Alton a few days,

making some purchases, and completing

the arrangement for the line of steamers,

I left on the night of the 9th of May

from Alton, in company with a party of

about one hundred persons from Michigan,

under the direction of Rev. A. S. Chas.

on the steamer *Keystone*, direct for Kan-

sas. On the 13th we passed Lexington,

and learned of the arrest of Dr. Rob-

inson, the day previous, while on

his way down the river. On Monday,

we arrived at Kansas City about 10 o'clock

AM. I passed through town, transacted

some business, but noticed I was the sub-

ject of observation and remark from all

quarters. I learned of the state of mat-

ters in the Territory, and of the flight of

Reeder and Robinson, and was assured

that efforts would be made to arrest me.

I was advised by several to seek safety

in flight. This I refused to do. After

dinner I registered my name and had

room No. 21 assigned to me. When I

visited it I found O. C. Brown, Esq., of

Oswatimie, in possession of it. Leaving

immediately I made my way to a room

on the third floor where some friends

were stopping, and engaged in conversa-

tion. I had been there but a few min-

utes when one of the company stated

that as he left the house a few moments

before, he met two persons entering the

house, one of whom remarked, as they

passed him, "What is best to do with

him? We will take him at all hazards."

This report was hardly made when an-

other of the party entered, and said he met

as he came up the stairs, two men hold-

ing a child who was being dragged down

the stairs into the street. Soon after I learned

that Mr. Brown, of Oswatimie, had been

arrested under an apprehension that they

had taken me; that he was taken down

the street, and hastily thrown into a car-

riage which was guarded by twelve armed

men on horseback; and that just as

the door was being closed to the carriage,

Mr. Riddleberger came along, recognized

the fact, told them they had the wrong

person, and then their prisoner was dis-

charged. I learned further that the pol-

ice had returned to arrest me, and Col.

Reeder, the proprietor of the house, re-

fused to give them admittance, on the

contrary, resolved to defend his premises

from "unlawful searches and seizures,"

and for further security called to his aid

the authorities and citizens.

The danger continued imminent. The

mob placed a guard around the house,

and continued it there all night and the

following day. In the mean time I had

called to my aid several revolvers, and

found that with my friends we had forty-

six shots in our room without reloading,

and that our walls were of brick, and of

course impervious to bullets. We had re-

solved never to be taken alive, unless by

a legal process. It was supposed that the

design was to pass me into the hands of

a mob, and lynch me.

About two o'clock Wednesday morn-

ing a gentleman entered the room I was

still occupying with my friends, and stated

that "the coast was clear." He said the

guard had been withdrawn, and the gen-

eral impression was that I had gone down

the river.

This friend informed me that Mr. Jex-

kins, of Lawrence, was about returning

home on horseback, and he thought it

advisable for me to go with him. This I

concluded to do, and procured a horse

and saddle for that purpose. We took

the usually traveled road, and had jour-

neyed only about a mile, when a black

object was seen a few feet in advance of

us, and the command "Halt, and give an

account of yourselves," was given in a

stern voice. My horse sprang, and wheel-

ed and was nearly two rods away, when

I wheeled it about, and rode by the side

of Mr. Jenkins, expecting each moment

he would fire. Instead of this I heard the

following colloquy:

"Who are you?"

"My name is Gaius Jenkins."

"Where are you going?"

"To Lawrence."

"Mr. Jenkins, these are critical times—

We shall require you to stop with us un-

til morning."

"But my business is urgent, and I must

go home immediately."

"My orders are positive. You must

stop with us until morning. Who is that

with you?"

"He can answer for himself," said Mr.

Jenkins.

I gave a fictitious name, and stated I

was going to Westport.

Long ere this two others, with double

barrel shot guns, had made their ap-

pearance, one at my back and the other at

my horse's head. The bridges of each of

our horses had been caught, and escape

seemed impossible. Indeed we were not

expecting any attempt to arrest us, and

our weapons were buttoned under our

clothes, beyond our reach for the mo-

ment. We thought prudence the better

part of valor, and followed. I thought as

I rode along, with the demons leading my

horse, that if any violence was offered me

I would then sell my life as dearly as

possible.

Arriving at the door of Milton McGee's

house, one mile south of Kansas City, we

were ordered to dismount, and marched

into the house. Here we had a short con-

versation; an express was sent for other

members of the party who were guarding

the various roads, who soon after returned

and presented quite a formidable appear-

ance.

In due time we were conducted to a

small bed room on the second floor of the

house, at the entrance of a long piazza.

Several persons, armed, followed us, Mc-

Gee, who was our captor, leading the way.

Entering the room we were commanded

to give up our arms. Mr. Jenkins com-

menced untrussing his belt. I remon-

strated, and told them we required our

arms for protection against personal vi-

olence. Several persons sprang into the

room with cocked pistols in hand, and

"G—d give up your arms d—d quick, or I will blow your brains out."

I thought it prudent to obey, since Mr.

Jenkins joined in the request. He had

already placed a pair of Colt's Navy rev-

olvers in McGee's hands. I took a Robbins'

shooter from my pocket, and a bowie knife

from my bosom and passed them to

McGee. McGee hoped we would have a

good night's rest, and stated that we

should be carried to Westport in the

morning.

The door was bolted, and a guard placed

around it. Mr. J. and myself got into

bed. But a few moments elapsed and he

was sound asleep, and continued thus un-

tilled in the morning. I could not avoid

thinking of the incidents of the past

few days, of the killing of my namesake

at Easton, in February previous, under

the supposition that it was me; of the

arrest and fortunate escape of O. C. Brown,

Esq., on the Monday previous, and of

the probable position matters would as-

sume at Westport when I should be tak-

en there. Suffice it to say, the short period

to morning was spent in wakefulness.

In due time we were called to break-

fast. Previous to setting down to the table,

I requested Mr. McGee to walk with

me, which he consented to do. I soon

learned that he was an Odd Fellow. He

promised me full protection, and said no

violence should come to me if he could

avoid it. After receiving repeated assur-

ances that he would defend me to the

last extremity, I drew from my pocket an

Allen's revolver, and remarked that I had

saved it the night previous, resolved

to take the life of any person who at-

tempted to harm me, but as I felt I was

safer under his protection, than relying on

my own arm, I would place the weapon in

his hands, which he did. He gave renewed

assurances of my safety. We ate breakfast

at the public table, were hospitably treat-

ed, and soon entered a hack called "Sound

on the Goose," and with two armed men

in front, and two on our horses in the rear,

we rode to Westport, distant four miles.

Here we were taken to the office of the

Harris House, where crowds arrived with

Sharp's rifles, revolvers, and huge bowie

knives strapped to their persons in full

sight, who visited us, and eyed us with deep

interest. We supposed them a mob who

designed to execute summary vengeance

on us for daring to think for ourselves,

but they proved, on further acquaintance, to

be the company of Shawnee Sharp. Shoot-

ers, numbering about fifty persons, under

the command of the redoubtable Capt.

Henry Clay Pate, the infamous correspond-

ent of the *St. Louis Republican*. They had

collected to go in search of me—suppos-

ing I had escaped the night previous, and

expected to find me on the steamer *Liz-*

zic which was starting up the Kansas river

that morning from Kansas City.

I took pains to make the acquaintance

of some of the leading citizens of the place,

and as soon as possible prevailed upon them

to take me to a private room, where I con-

tinued to remain most of the time while